(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(d) and (e) The expenditure incurred on some of the schemes such as Publicity Measures and Awareness Campaign, are done in totality for the entire country and as such State-wise segregation of expenditure is not possible. The expenditure incurred on the various road safety schemes for the last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)
1.	2004-05	34.99
2.	2005-06	29.70
3.	2006-07	43.25

Maintenance of Delhi-Haridwar National Highway

1144. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance and upkeep of the Delhi-Haridwar National Highway is far from satisfactory making it prone to accidents and troublsome for users;

(b) if so, the reasons for its poor maintenance;

(c) the expenditure incurred for its maintenance during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and so far during 2007-08;

(d) whether its maintenace cost compared pooly as per national level; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps [illegible]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. There were some damages on this National Highway (NH) during the raining season and the same has been repaired. The road is in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The year-wise expenditure incurred for maintenance of the reach from Delhi to Haridwar is given below:

Year	Expenditure in Rs. crore
2004-05	5.09
2005-06	5.47
2006-07	7.16
2007-08 (up to October, 2007)	6.47
TOTAL:	24.19

(d) and (e) The funds are allocated State-wise and not NH-wise. The Maintenance and Repair activities of NHs are taken up based on severity of damages, traffic density, site condition, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds.

By-pass around Dina Nagar on Pathankot-Amritsar Highway

1145. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the construction of by-pass around Dina Nagar on the Pathankot-Amritsar Highway has been awarded to a contractor;

(b) if so, by when the work on the project is likely to commence and would become operational; and

(c) the cost involved in the project and the extent to which that has been provided for during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Detailed Project Report for four laning of Pathankot-Amritsar section of NH-15 including construction of Dina Nagar bypass on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is under preparation. It is too early to decide the date of commencement and operation of four laning of this stretch.

(c) Pathankot-Amritsar section of NH-15 has been identified for four laning under National Highways Development Project Phase-III on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Shortage of skilled staff in shipping lines

1146. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of skilled staff in domestic shipping lines;

(b) if so, the number of vacant posts; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per estimates received from the Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA), there is a shortfall of about 834 officers in Indian flag vessels, as of June, 2007.